

SAFETY PLUS



A Newsletter For a Positive Safety Attitude

September 2001

2001 Safety Plus Seminar/Banquet

This past Spring at the Jackson, MS Hilton, Vicksburg District held a great celebration of construction safety success. Over eighty Government and contractor personnel from across Vicksburg District gathered to recognize successful safety efforts on construction projects completed during the past year. Both contractor personnel and Corps project personnel were recognized.

As a part of the celebration, several recognized leaders in the safety arena from the Corps and the construction industry made

presentations to the group emphasizing the importance of sound safety practices in construction. This seminar is an annual event held as a part of the Vicksburg District Construction Division's Safety Plus Program. The program has shown phenomenal success in contributing to reduce accident rates on Corps of Engineers projects throughout the Vicksburg District. Since inception of the program, contracts administered in Construction Division have experienced a drastic drop from an accident frequency rate of 1.3 in 1997 down to its current level of 0.5 in FY2000 and even further to 0.25 so far in 2001.

The highlight of the annual celebration is the awards banquet. In addition to great food, the banquet this year included a keynote address from New Orleans humorist and Safety Specialist, Mr. Bruce Wilkinson. Col Crear, District Commander at that time, recognized the following contractors for safe performance:

Quinn Construction - Vicksburg District Annual Safety Plus Award, Small Projects category.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 1 2001 Safety Plus Seminar/Banquet
- 2 Comments From The Chairman
- 3 Semi-Annual Safety Plus Award Winner
- 3 District Safety Plus Award Celebrations
- 3 Completed Contracts With No Lost Time Accidents

Lincoln Builders - Vicksburg District Annual Safety Plus Award, Large Projects category; Vicksburg District nomination for Chief of Engineers Safe Contractor of the Year Award for 2000 and recently announced to have won this honor.

Cajun Constructors - Chief of Engineers Safe Contractor of the Year Award, 1999.

The seminar and banquet was a great success in focusing on safety and bringing the entire Government-Contractor partnership to realize the conference theme, "believe in safety."

The Safety Plus program has likewise brought the Vicksburg District to new levels of excellence in contract safety. Thinking has transformed to now understand that "zero accidents" really is an achievable goal. Construction workers really can be sent home in the same condition they arrived - to consistently return to their families unharmed. Next year conference will be in Shreveport, LA. January 15-17, 2002.

Comments for the Chairman of the SPAC:

Assuring compliance with the safety manual has always been serious business with the Corps particularly with the QA reps in the field. There is a lot of pressure not only to be accident free but also not to have safety deficiencies. According to

discussions I have had with contractors, sometimes our efforts are mistakenly perceived as "picking on them". This can be "sour grapes" but it is important to recognize that it may be coming from the heart in some instances. Several years ago I had a superintendent tell me that safety was all about looking out for each other on the jobsite, which is true. But he continued that he and the workers (according to him) felt that we were using safety dings as punishment because of problems in other areas of the contract administration. As the saying goes "You can always find a safety deficiency". Obviously this perception hinders our efforts in achieving our goal of a safe job. It fosters resentment, distrust, and general attitudes of "do it when the Corps is not looking".

With the Safety Plus program we are striving to achieve our safety goals by accentuating the positives of a good, proactive safety program rather than having to continually point out the failures. The awards program is based on a partnership at the jobsite level. The contractor has to execute a good safety program and the QA rep has to be willing to recognize this by making the nomination. As we heard from the Workman's Comp representatives at the last seminar/banquet- A Contractor's ability to stay in business will be tied to a good safety rating. Hopefully we can increase the affect of Safety Plus awards on that number. If we can increase the "carrot" maybe we want have to rely so much on the "stick".

Any suggestions that may help the Safety Plus program achieve this goal are welcomed.

Vicksburg District, Semi-Annual Safety Plus Award Winner

Seaward Marine Services, Inc. of Norfolk, Virginia was selected as the District Semi Annual winner for the first half of Calendar year 2001 for their successful work on Contract DACW38-C-00-0030, DEC, Town Creek Channel Enlargement, Reach 2& 3.

District Safety Plus Award Celebrations

Vidalia Area Office

The Vidalia Area Office Construction Representative, Paul McGee, participated in a joint safety inspection with the Greenwood Area in the Greenwood Area. The purpose of this joint inspection was to share methods and knowledge to help both areas improve safety on the job. Paul reports that share experience was excellent and informative.

Greenwood Area Office

The Greenwood Area Office utilized award money received for having the "Small Contract" District Award winner in conjunctions with our Engineers' Day celebration. On June 8th the office barbequed chickens at a local park and had rousing games of washer toss and bingo. Winners were recipients of coolers, Corp memorabilia and other nice prizes also thanks to the award. The Safety Plus

Award winning contractor, Quinn Contracting, Inc, was invited. David Quinn, Sec/Tres, attended and was recognized for his accomplishment.

Completed Contracts With No Lost Time Accidents, Jan 1 – Jun 30, 2001

DECP, Goose Creek
Lampkin Construction, Co. Inc

DECP, Riser Pipes, Yalabusha River Ws
Quinn Contracting, Inc.

DECP, Riser Pipe, Coldwater River
Colom Construction Co, Inc.

DECP, Bank Stabilization, Saboigla & Lindsay
creeks, Bickerstaff Brothers, Inc

DECP, Riser Pipe, Batupan Bogue
Quinn Contracting, Inc

Emergency Stream bank Protection
Mid-East Contractors, Inc.

DECP, Box Culvert, Yalobusha
4-D Constructions, Inc

Paving, Grenada Dam Road
Lehman-Roberts company

Natchez Bluff Area 4
Schnabel Foundation Co.

Natchez Bluff Areas 6&7
Hayward Baker, Inc

Ouachita Levee Item 1
A&A Contractors, LLC

Wilkerson/Carrol
Souter Construction Co.

Marteau Meade/Smith Island
Leon Duplessis & Sons

Choctaw
Souter Construction Co.

Bayou Pierre
Tacon Company, LLC